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**Attorneys for Plaintiff**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Alexander Pardini, individually and on  
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Mi Casa Su Casa, LLC, an Arizona  
Limited Liability Company,

Defendant.

No.

FLSA Collective Action  
FED. R. CIV. P. 23 Class Action

**PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL CLASS  
AND COLLECTIVE ACTION  
COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

**(Jury Trial Demanded)**

**SUMMARY**

1. Alexander Pardini brings this lawsuit to recover unpaid overtime wages and other damages owed by Mi Casa Su Casa, LLC ("Mi Casa").

2. Pardini and other hourly workers for Mi Casa regularly worked in excess of 40 hours in a week.

3. Mi Casa did not pay Pardini and these other workers the proper overtime rate for all of these hours.

4. Instead, Mi Casa paid Pardini and workers like him at the same hourly rate for most, if not all, hours worked.



1 17. Pardini's written consent is attached as Exhibit 1.

2 18. Pardini represents at least two classes of similarly situated workers for Mi  
3 Casa.

4 19. Pardini represents a collective of similarly situated hourly employees under  
5 the FLSA pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). This "FLSA Regular Rate Collective" is defined  
6 as:  
7

8 **All current or former hourly employees of Mi Casa working in**  
9 **the United States who were, at any point in the past three years,**  
10 **paid an overtime compensation rate that did not take into account**  
11 **all financial remuneration paid to the employee during the**  
12 **workweek, including but not limited to an employee's alternate,**  
13 **higher compensation rate, shift differentials, and non-**  
14 **discretionary bonuses.**

15 20. Pardini represents a class of similarly situated hourly employees under  
16 Arizona law pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. This "Arizona Wage Class"  
17 is defined as:  
18

19 **All current or former hourly employees of Mi Casa working in**  
20 **Arizona who were, at any point in the past three years, paid an**  
21 **overtime compensation rate that did not take into account all**  
22 **financial remuneration paid to the employee during the**  
23 **workweek, including but not limited to an employee's alternate,**  
24 **higher compensation rate, shift differentials, and non-**  
25 **discretionary bonuses.**

26 21. Together, throughout this Complaint, the FLSA Collective and Arizona Wage  
27 Class members are referred to as the "Similarly Situated Workers."

28 22. Mi Casa Su Casa, LLC ("Mi Casa") is an Arizona limited liability company.

23 23. Mi Casa's headquarters and principal place of business is in Maricopa  
24 County, Arizona.

25 24. At all relevant times, one or more of Mi Casa's ultimate members were  
26 citizens of Arizona.  
27

28 **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL CLASS AND COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**



35. Mi Casa never paid Pardini a salary.

36. Mi Casa never paid Pardini on a fee basis.

37. Mi Casa paid Pardini by the hour.

38. Mi Casa paid Pardini an hourly rate between \$14 and \$17 per hour for hours under 40 each week.

39. Pardini reported the hours he worked to Mi Casa on a regular basis.

40. Pardini's hours are reflected in Mi Casa's records.

41. Pardini normally worked more than 40 hours in a week.

42. For most of his employment, Mi Casa paid Pardini at one or two hourly rates during each pay period for all hours worked, including those in excess of 40 in a week.

43. For example, for the bi-monthly pay period ending May 30, 2021, Pardini worked 105.10 hours for Mi Casa.

44. For that pay period, Mi Casa paid Pardini at the same hourly rate of \$15 per hour for all 105.10 hours worked:

<b>EARNINGS</b>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>HRS/UNITS</i>	<i>RATE</i>	<i>THIS PERIOD (\$)</i>	<i>YTD HOURS</i>	<i>YTD (\$)</i>
	Hourly	105.10	15.0000	1576.50	105.10	1576.50
	<b>Total Hours</b>	105.10			105.10	
	<b>Gross Earnings</b>			1576.50		1576.50
	<b>Total Hrs Worked</b>	105.10				

45. Another example, for the bi-monthly pay period ending October 3, 2021, Pardini worked 107.80 hours for Mi Casa.

46. For that pay period, Mi Casa paid Pardini at the two different hourly rates—\$14 and \$17—for each hour worked:

<b>EARNINGS</b>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>HRS/UNITS</i>	<i>RATE</i>	<i>THIS PERIOD (\$)</i>	<i>YTD HOURS</i>	<i>YTD (\$)</i>
	Hourly	71.23	14.0000	997.22	792.64	11875.50
	Hourly	36.57	17.0000	621.69		
	<b>Total Hours</b>	107.80			792.64	
	<b>Gross Earnings</b>			1618.91		11875.50
	<b>Total Hrs Worked</b>	107.80				

47. Thus, for the pay period ending October 3, 2021 Pardini was not paid an overtime premium at the regular rate required by the FLSA for any of his overtime hours.

48. Even when Mi Casa paid Pardini what it called “overtime,” it was clearly not at the rate required by the FLSA.

49. Mi Casa’s “overtime” rate was not based on all remuneration paid to Pardini, as required by the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 207(e).

50. For example, during the bi-monthly pay period ending November 28, 2021, Pardini worked 60.30 hours for Mi Casa at the rate of \$14 per hour and 24.72 hours for Mi Casa at the rate of \$17 per hour.

<b>EARNINGS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>HRS/UNITS</b>	<b>RATE</b>	<b>THIS PERIOD (\$)</b>	<b>YTD HOURS</b>	<b>YTD (\$)</b>
	Hourly	60.30	14.0000	844.20	1135.71	16934.98
	Hourly	24.72	17.0000	420.24		
	Overtime	<u>7.98</u>	21.0000	<u>167.58</u>	<u>7.98</u>	<u>167.58</u>
	<b>Total Hours</b>	93.00			1143.69	
	<b>Gross Earnings</b>			1432.02		17102.56
	<b>Total Hrs Worked</b>	93.00				

51. But when Mi Casa paid Pardini what it called “overtime” for that period, it paid at a rate of only \$21 per hour:

52. That is, Mi Casa paid overtime arbitrarily at the lower rate of \$14 per hour, rather than based upon Pardini’s regular rate.

53. Mi Casa was aware of the overtime requirements of the FLSA.

54. Mi Casa nonetheless failed to pay certain hourly employees, such as Pardini, overtime at the rates required by the FLSA.

55. Mi Casa’s failure to pay overtime to these hourly workers was, and is, a willful violation of the FLSA.

56. Because of the FLSA’s overtime requirements, non-exempt employees, like Pardini, reasonably expect to be compensated for the overtime they work at a rate at least 1.5x their regular hourly rate of pay.

**PLAINTIFF’S ORIGINAL CLASS AND COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

1           57. Employees, like Pardini, reasonably expect that their employers will comply  
2 with federal law regarding the payment of their wages.

3           58. Pardini, in particular, expected that Mi Casa would pay him in accordance  
4 with federal and state law.

5           59. Mi Casa was aware of the wage payment requirements of Arizona law.

6           60. Mi Casa nonetheless failed to pay certain hourly employees, such as Pardini,  
7 the wages they were owed under Arizona law.

8           61. Mi Casa knew, or showed reckless disregard for whether, its policy of not  
9 calculating and paying overtime at the full, regular hourly rate violated the FLSA.

10           62. Mi Casa's failure to pay full overtime to these hourly workers was, and is, a  
11 willful violation of the FLSA.

12  
13                                   **COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

14           63. Pardini incorporates all other allegations.

15           64. The illegal pay practices Mi Casa imposed on Pardini were likewise imposed  
16 on the FLSA Collective members.

17           65. The illegal pay practices Mi Casa imposed on Pardini were likewise imposed  
18 on the FLSA Collective Members.

19           66. Pardini employs many other workers who worked over 40 hours per week  
20 and were subject to Mi Casa's same pattern, practice, and policy of failing to pay overtime  
21 at 1.5x the workers' regular rates of pay.

22           67. Numerous individuals were victimized by this pattern, practice, and policy  
23 which is in willful violation of the FLSA.

24           68. Based on his experience and tenure with Mi Casa, Pardini is aware that Mi  
25 Casa's illegal practices were imposed on the FLSA Collective Members.

26           69. These workers were similarly situated within the meaning of the FLSA.

27  
28                                   **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL CLASS AND COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

1           70. Mi Casa's failure to pay overtime compensation at the rates required by the  
2 FLSA result from generally applicable, systematic policies, and practices which are not  
3 dependent on the personal circumstances of the FLSA Collective Members.

4                           **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

5           71. The illegal practices Mi Casa imposed on Pardini were likewise imposed on  
6 the Arizona Wage Class members.

7           72. During the applicable statute of limitations, numerous other individuals who  
8 worked with Pardini were not paid their full wages for all hours worked.

9           73. These members of the Arizona Wage Class are so numerous that joinder of  
10 all members the class is impracticable.

11           74. Mi Casa imposed uniform practices and policies on Pardini and these Arizona  
12 Wage Class members regardless of any individualized factors.

13           75. Based on his experience and tenure with Mi Casa, Pardini is aware that Mi  
14 Casa's illegal practices regarding the payment of wages were imposed on the Arizona Wage  
15 Class members.

16           76. Arizona Wage Class members were all not paid all compensation due to them  
17 for the labor or services they provided to Mi Casa.

18           77. Mi Casa's failure to pay wages and overtime compensation in accordance  
19 with Arizona law results from generally applicable, systematic policies, and practices  
20 which are not dependent on the personal circumstances of the Arizona Wage Class  
21 members.

22           78. Pardini's experiences are therefore typical of the experiences of the Arizona  
23 Wage Class members.

24           79. Pardini has no interest contrary to, or in conflict with, the members of the  
25 Arizona Wage Class. Like each member of the proposed class, Pardini has an interest in  
26

27 **PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL CLASS AND COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**  
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1 obtaining the unpaid wages and other damages owed under the law.

2 80. A class action, such as this one, is superior to other available means for fair  
3 and efficient adjudication of the lawsuit.

4 81. Absent this action, many Arizona Wage Class members likely will not obtain  
5 redress of their injuries and Mi Casa will reap the unjust benefits of violating Arizona law.

6 82. Furthermore, even if some of the Arizona Wage Class members could afford  
7 individual litigation against Mi Casa, it would be unduly burdensome to the judicial system.

8 83. Concentrating the litigation in one forum will promote judicial economy and  
9 parity among the claims of individual members of the classes and provide for judicial  
10 consistency.

11 84. The questions of law and fact common to each of the Arizona Wage Class  
12 members predominate over any questions affecting solely the individual members. Among  
13 the common questions of law and fact are:  
14

- 15 a. Whether Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class Members were paid all  
16 nondiscretionary compensation due to them in return for the work  
17 done for Mi Casa;
- 18 b. Whether Mi Casa's pay scheme, which failed to compensate Pardini  
19 and the Arizona Wage Class members at least 1.5x their regular rate  
20 of pay for overtime hours worked, resulted in the nonpayment of  
21 wages due and owing to the to Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class  
22 Members under the Arizona Wage Act;
- 23 c. Whether Mi Casa knowingly benefitted at the expense of Pardini and  
24 the Arizona Wage Class Members; and  
25  
26  
27  
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1 d. Whether allowing Mi Casa to retain the benefit it obtained at the  
2 expense of Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class Members would be  
3 unjust.

4 85. Pardini's claims are typical of the claims of the respective Arizona Wage  
5 Class members. Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members have all sustained damages  
6 arising out of Mi Casa's respective illegal and uniform employment policies.

7 86. Pardini knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management  
8 of this litigation that would preclude its ability to go forward as a class or collective action.

9 87. Although the issue of damages may be somewhat individual in character,  
10 there is no detracting from the common nucleus of liability facts. Therefore, this issue does  
11 not preclude class or collective action treatment.

12  
13 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION—VIOLATIONS OF THE FLSA**  
14 **AS TO PARDINI AND THE FLSA COLLECTIVE**

15 88. Pardini incorporates all other allegations.

16 89. By failing to pay Pardini and the FLSA Collective members overtime at 1.5  
17 times their regular rates, Mi Casa violated the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 207(a).

18 90. Mi Casa owes Pardini and the FLSA Collective members overtime for all  
19 hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek, at a rate of at least 1.5 times their regular  
20 rates of pay.

21 91. Mi Casa owes Pardini and the FLSA Collective members the difference  
22 between the rate actually paid for overtime, if any, and the proper overtime rate.

23 92. Mi Casa knowingly, willfully, or in reckless disregard carried out this illegal  
24 pattern and practice of failing to pay the FLSA Collective members overtime  
25 compensation.  
26  
27  
28

1           93. Because Mi Casa knew, or showed reckless disregard for whether, its pay  
2 practices violated the FLSA, Mi Casa owes these wages for at least the past three years.

3           94. Mi Casa's failure to pay overtime compensation to these FLSA Collective  
4 members was neither reasonable, nor was the decision not to pay overtime made in good  
5 faith.

6           95. Because Mi Casa's decision not to pay overtime was not made in good faith,  
7 Mi Casa also owes Pardini and the FLSA Collective members an amount equal to the  
8 unpaid overtime wages as liquidated damages.

9           96. Accordingly, Pardini and the FLSA Collective members are entitled to  
10 overtime wages under the FLSA in an amount equal to 1.5x their regular rates of pay, plus  
11 liquidated damages, attorney's fees, and costs.

12  
13           **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION—VIOLATIONS OF THE ARIZONA WAGE ACT**  
14           **AS TO PARDINI AND THE ARIZONA WAGE CLASS**

15           97. Pardini incorporates all other allegations.

16           98. The conduct alleged in this Complaint violates the Arizona Wage Act, A.R.S.  
17 23-350 *et seq.*

18           99. Mi Casa was and is an "employer" within the meaning of the Arizona Wage  
19 Act. A.R.S. § 23-350(3).

20           100. At all relevant times, Mi Casa employed Pardini and each other Arizona  
21 Wage member as "employees" within the meaning of the Arizona Wage Act. A.R.S. § 23-  
22 350(2).

23           101. Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class members were required by law to  
24 be paid nondiscretionary compensation for all labor and services provided to Mi Casa.  
25 A.R.S. § 23-350(7).  
26  
27  
28

1           102. Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class members had a reasonable  
2 expectation Mi Casa would pay them wages for all labor and services provided to Mi Casa.  
3 A.R.S. § 23-350(7).

4           103. Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class members had a reasonable  
5 expectation Mi Casa would pay them wages as required by the FLSA.

6           104. Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class members had a reasonable  
7 expectation Mi Casa would pay them wages as required by federal law.

8           105. Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class members had a reasonable  
9 expectation Mi Casa would pay them wages as required by Arizona law.

10           106. Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class members had a reasonable  
11 expectation Mi Casa would pay them at a rate at least 1.5 times their regular rate of pay for  
12 hours worked in excess of 40 in a workweek.

13           107. Within the applicable limitations period, Mi Casa had a policy and practice  
14 of failing to pay proper overtime to the Arizona Wage Class members for their hours  
15 worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

16           108. The wages owed to Pardini and each other Arizona Wage member were due  
17 to be paid not later than 16 days after the end of the of the most recent pay period. A.R.S.  
18 § 23-351(C)(3).

19           109. The wages and overtime owed to Pardini and each other Arizona Wage  
20 member who left the employment of Mi Casa were due to be paid not later seven days after  
21 termination, or at the end of the next regular pay period. A.R.S. § 23-353(A)-(B).

22           110. The Arizona Wage Act prohibits an employer from withholding or diverting  
23 any portion of an employee's wages unless they are required or empowered to do so by  
24

1 state or federal law, or the employee has authorized the withholding in writing. A.R.S. § 23-  
2 352.

3 111. Mi Casa was not required under Arizona or federal law to withhold the wages  
4 due to Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members.

5 112. Mi Casa was not empowered under Arizona or federal law to withhold the  
6 wages due to Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members.

7 113. Neither Pardini nor the Arizona Wage Class members authorized Mi Casa to  
8 withhold the wages due to them.

9 114. Mi Casa has not paid the wages to Pardini and the other Arizona Wage Class  
10 Member.

11 115. As a result of Mi Casa's failure to pay all nondiscretionary compensation to  
12 Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class Members, Mi Casa violated the Arizona Wage Act.

13 116. Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members are entitled to recover all  
14 unpaid wages, treble damages, plus attorney's fees and costs. A.R.S. § 23-355(A).

15  
16  
17 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION—UNJUST ENRICHMENT**  
18 **AS TO PARDINI AND THE ARIZONA WAGE CLASS**

19 117. Pardini incorporates all other allegations.

20 118. Mi Casa's acts and omissions in failing to pay earned wages to Pardini and  
21 the Arizona Wage Class members was done knowingly, willfully, or with reckless disregard  
22 of the rights of Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members.

23 119. As a result of its unlawful acts and omissions, Mi Casa received substantial  
24 benefit in the form of financial compensation that rightfully belonged to Pardini and the  
25 Arizona Wage Class members.

26 120. It would be unjust to allow Mi Casa to retain these benefits, which were  
27 gained through unlawful means, including but not limited to, failing to pay Pardini and the  
28

**PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL CLASS AND COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

1 Arizona Wage Class members the wages they were entitled to under Arizona law.

2 121. Mi Casa has been unjustly enriched by its unlawful acts and omissions.

3 **DAMAGES**

4 122. Mi Casa's acts and omissions, individually and collectively, caused Pardini  
5 and the Similarly Situated Workers to sustain legal damages.

6 123. Pardini and the FLSA Collective members are entitled to overtime wages in  
7 an amount equal to 1.5x their regular rates of pay, plus liquidated damages, attorney's fees,  
8 and costs. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

9 124. Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members are entitled to damages under  
10 the Arizona Wage Act in an amount equal to three times their unpaid wages, plus attorney's  
11 fees and costs. A.R.S. § 23-355(A).

12 125. Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members are entitled to recover for Mi  
13 Casa's unjust enrichment, including restitution and penalties.

14 126. Pardini and the Similarly Situated Workers are entitled to recover attorneys'  
15 fees and costs of court.

16 127. Pardini and the FLSA Collective members are entitled to recover liquidated  
17 damages under the FLSA.

18 128. Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members are entitled to treble damages  
19 under the Arizona Wage Act.

20 129. Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members are entitled to exemplary  
21 damages on their unjust enrichment claim.

22 130. Pardini and the Similarly Situated Workers are entitled to pre- and post-  
23 judgment interest at the maximum legal rates.

131. A constructive trust should be imposed on Mi Casa, and the Court should sequester any benefits or money wrongfully received by Mi Casa at the expense of Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members.

#### **RELIEF SOUGHT**

Pardini prays for judgment against Mi Casa as follows:

- a. For an order certifying a collective action for the purposes of claims under the FLSA;
- b. For an order certifying a class action for the purposes of the claims under Arizona law;
- c. For an order finding Mi Casa liable for violations of federal wage laws with respect to Pardini and all FLSA Collective Members covered by this case;
- d. For an order finding Mi Casa liable for violations of Arizona wage laws with respect to Pardini and all Arizona Wage Class members covered by this case;
- e. For a judgment awarding all unpaid wages, liquidated damages, and penalties under federal wage laws to Pardini and all FLSA Collective Members covered by this case;
- f. For a judgment awarding all unpaid wages, liquidated damages, and penalties to Pardini and all Arizona Wage Class members covered by this case;
- g. For an order finding Mi Casa was unjustly enriched by its violations of Arizona law with respect to Pardini and all Arizona Wage Class members covered by this case;

- 1 h. For an order imposing a constructive trust on Mi Casa and  
2 sequestering the benefits and monies that it wrongfully obtained at the  
3 expense of Pardini and the Arizona Wage Class members;  
4 i. For an order for an accounting and awarding restitution, penalties, and  
5 exemplary damages to Pardini and all Arizona Wage Class members  
6 covered by this case;  
7 j. For a judgment awarding costs of this action to Pardini and all FLSA  
8 Collective and Arizona Wage Class members covered by this case;  
9 k. For a judgment awarding attorneys' fees to Pardini and FLSA  
10 Collective and Arizona Wage Class covered by this case;  
11 l. For a judgment awarding pre- and post-judgment interest at the  
12 highest rates allowed by law to Pardini and all FLSA Collective and  
13 Arizona Wage Class members covered by this case; and  
14 m. For all such other and further relief as may be necessary and  
15 appropriate.  
16  
17

18 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**  
19

20 Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
21 38(b) on all issues so triable in this action.  
22

23 SUBMITTED this 10th day of May 2002.

24 **RANDALL LAW PLLC**

25 By /s/ Samuel R. Randall  
26 Samuel R. Randall  
27 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*  
28

**PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL CLASS AND COLLECTIVE COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**